

1
ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 6JACK ANDERSON'S WASHINGTON LETTER
1 May 1986

STRICTLY PERSONAL: EXCERPTS FROM MY DIARY

April 10 -- Libyan crisis is boiling. CIA source confided that National Security Council is looking for some way to get rid of Moammar Khadafy without violating executive order prohibiting assassination of a foreign leader. Said Khadafy has never been more vulnerable. Falling oil prices have knocked economic props out from under him. Oil constitutes 99 percent of Libya's exports. With oil income down more than 50 percent, there's no longer enough money to fund all Khadafy's Utopian schemes. He has also alienated just about every faction in Libya. Now the people, pinched by shortages, are grumbling.

But most significant, army officers are angry over his harum-scarum leadership. This has already resulted in number of spontaneous coup attempts. There are two dozen anti-Khadafy groups eager to knock him off. CIA secretly supports one exile group, which operates under name National Front for the Salvation of Libya. Unfortunately, its leader, Mohammed Youssef Magarieff, has no following inside Libya. He organized coup attempt, which assaulted Khadafy's headquarters on May 8, 1984. But Khadafy hunkered down behind 15-foot wall ringed by Soviet tanks. The attacking force was wiped out.